

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PM-05

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /076 W

-----045848 170604Z /21

R 161200Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8602

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BAMA KO 0755

MONROVIA FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ML, UV

SUBJ: SIGNATURE OF CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MALI AND UPPER VOLTA

1. IN A CEREMONY IN BAMA KO ON FEBRUARY 4, 1978, A CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA WAS SIGNED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL KARIM DEMBELE, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS OF MALI, AND BY CAPTAIN MAHAMOUDOU OUEDRAOGO, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORT, AND URBANISM OF UPPER VOLTA. THE PRESENT AGREEMENT REPLACES AN EARLIER ONE, DATING FROM 1962, WHICH WAS NEVER APPLIED OWING TO LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND SUBSEQUENT VOLTAIC INTEGRATION INTO AIR AFRIQUE. IN HIS REMARKS AFTER THE SIGNATURE OF THE ACCORD, THE VOLTAIC MINISTER NOTED THAT IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO ALLOW COMPETITION WITH AIR AFRIQUE, BUT WILL RATHER RELIEVE STRAINS NOW PLACED UPON THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OF THAT COMPANY BY WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY LOCAL TRAFFIC.

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AIR VOLAT AND AIR MALI, BY THIS CONVENTION, WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICES BETWEEN MOPTI AND BAMA KO, MALI, AND BOBO-DIOULASSO AND OUAEADOU GOU, UPPER VOLTA.

2. FOR THE MOMENT, ONLY AIR VOLTA HAS ANNOUNCED SERVICE RESULTING FROM THIS ACCORD, A ONCE-A-WEEK OUAGADOUGOU-BOBO-BAMA KO AND RETURN FLIGHT USING

A SMALL TWIN-OTTER AIRPLANE. AIR MALI UTILIZATION OF THE NEW ROUTES WILL PROBABLY BE DELAYED BY EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS.

3. IN HIS REMARKS, MALIAN MINISTER DEMBELE LAUDED THE AGREEMENT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE, FOLLOWING ON JOINT MEMBERSHIPS IN VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPINGS, OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA.

COMMENT: THIS AGREEMENT, ALONG WITH MALIAN-VOLTAIC COOPERATION IN SUCH REGIONAL GROUPINGS AS THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA AUTHORITY AND THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS), INDICATES THE TWO COUNTRIES' POLICY OF OVERCOMING PAST DIFFERENCES ON BORDER PROBLEMS BY FINDING COMMON AREAS OF COOPERATION.
BYRNE

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